



eXtension – Military Families Monthly Report

Reporting Period: July 16, 2010 – August 15, 2010

1. Significant Activities:

- **Launched the Military Families Environmental Scan Survey** (July 22). Institutional Review Board approval was granted and the survey was distributed to all appropriate Directors/Administrators at the 1862, 1890, and 1994 Land Grant Institutions. In addition, various listservs were included in the distribution of the survey (fcsldrs, ehsn, 4hMilitary, 4hspecialist, 4hstateldrs, military-families [eXtension leaders and members lists], among others). The current timeline for this activity follows:
 - August 6 – Deadline for return of survey
 - Follow-up request to Directors with *August 16 extension*
 - Late August/early September – Quantitative and qualitative analyses
 - September 14-15 – Report initial findings at Quarterly Lead Institution meeting in Washington, DC

As of the writing of this report, 149 surveys have been submitted reporting on 203 programs (Community Capacity Building=33; Workforce Development=3; Strengthening Families, Child Care, Youth Development, & Personal Finance=132; Other=35 [typically combinations of above categories]).

- **Emerging CoP Web presence:** Continued planning occurs to establish an initial Web presence and hub for the Military Families CoP. An update on the planning follows:
 - An external "public" web site will include (targeting military families helping professionals, both DoD and Extension):
 - Feeds from other resources, determined by the Military Families of Community Practice that are dynamic and change as resources are found and marked in other sites.
 - Blog posts from the Military Families Community of Practice. The blog will be initial and ongoing "content" that is timely and allows for engagement and interaction.
 - Content as it is developed for helping professionals that serve the unique needs of military families.

- Repurposed content from existing CoPs as appropriate.

The Web site will be developed within a content structure that includes three primary categories or focus areas:

1. Community capacity building
2. Workforce development
3. Strengthening families, child care, youth development

As mentioned in the **Environmental Scan** section, a vast majority of the programs serving military families are categorized under the concentration area "Strengthening Families, Child Care, & Youth Development". The plan is to further divide this area of concentration to allow subject matter experts to guide the evolution of the site. This will ultimately lead to five new subject matter/social media staff positions in the following categories

1. Community Capacity Building in Military Families
2. Workforce Development
- 3a. Strengthening Families & Youth Development
- 3b. Child Care
- 3c. Personal Finance & Financial Literacy

These staff would join appropriate existing CoPs with a primary role of bridging our CoPs with various communities of interest. They would lead the efforts in identifying resources, engaging relationships, and building content specifically directed at supporting the unique needs of helping professionals serving military families.

2. Current deliverable(s), activity, goals/objectives

- **Environmental Scan:** The announcement letters for the Directors/Administrators and listservs can be found at: http://collaborate.extension.org/wiki/Military_Families
- **Intranet:** The intranet site launch has been delayed as material needed for construction is currently in the development stage.
- **Collaboration with Lead Institutions/Sub-Awardees for project Web support:** Recently, documentation has been received by eXtension which will allow for the development of detailed and specific plans of support connected to Lead Institutions and Sub-Awardees. Continued evaluation of these proposals is underway with the intent to approach each Sub-Awardee project to begin formal conversations surrounding appropriate web support.
- **Network Literacy Community of Practice development:** Initial planning and organization is occurring surrounding the Network Literacy CoP. The primary focus of the Network Literacy CoP is to build a community around learning in networked environments. The Network Literacy CoP will pursue information pertaining to new technologies, new ways of learning, innovative approaches in working on the Internet, and trends around technology use and education. One of the charges of the Network Literacy Community of

Practice is, by using social media, to assist the Military Families CoP to use social media in learning communities.

3. Action still needed to complete the current deliverable(s)

- **Environmental Scan:** The data continue to be collected. Once completed, the data are to be cleaned and analyzed. Initial findings will be organized and presented in written and oral formats for the Military Families Partnership Lead Institution Quarterly meeting in Washington, DC. Additionally, continued evaluation post-Leads meeting will be conducted to make full use of the information collected to best support resource leveraging.
- **Intranet:** Continued collaboration with WSU, with input from DoD and NIFA, to develop site specifications and a final launch of the intranet for the project.
- **Emerging CoP Web presence:** Form a small work group of various experts to steer efforts in continued development of the plan (4H Military Liaisons, FCS staff working with military populations, Military Program Manager staff, etc.).
- **Continued/increased collaboration with Lead Institutions/Sub-Awardees for project Web support:** Review of Sub-Awardee proposals continues to formulate specific plans of support.
- **Network Literacy Community of Practice development:** Form an initial core group of CoP leaders to fine tune and springboard development of the CoP.

4. Relevant challenges that need attention from DoD/NIFA

- Continued information from various appropriate staff mentioned above (DoD/NIFA including 4H Military Liaisons, FCS staff working with military populations, Military Program Manager staff, etc.), encouragement for individual project leaders to assist eXtension identifying Web needs and support, and development of the program Web site to include reallocating funds for hiring subject matter/social media experts.
- Ongoing conversation and input is needed for **developing the Military Families CoP**, especially in the area of making sure the CoP is “generating” the type of traffic, content focus and energy needed to attract military family helping professionals to engage and participate in the CoP.

5. Success stories that would be of interest to USDA and or DoD Leadership

- The environmental scan survey has been launched and preliminary results indicate:
 - 149 surveys submitted
 - 203 programs reported
 - 33 Community Capacity Building
 - 3 Workforce Development
 - 132 Strengthening Families, Child Care, Youth Development, & Personal Finance
 - 35 Other
- The Military Families CoP continues to grow with 75 members and leaders.